

Whereas there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East without a Palestinian State that is democratic, free, and based on the rule of law, including free press, free speech, an open political process, and religious tolerance;

Whereas the Palestinian leaders must meet their commitments under the road map to fight terrorism and dismantle terrorist organizations;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority will need a credible and unified security structure capable of providing security for the Palestinian people and fighting terrorism;

Whereas Palestinian leaders, with help from the international community, must also develop effective and transparent financial structures that provide for the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people;

Whereas the President stated that now is the time to seize the opportunity of new circumstances in the region to redouble our efforts to achieve this goal;

Whereas achieving the goals of peace, security, and stability will require the United States, its international partners, and the parties involved to take the following steps articulated in a Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair on November 12, 2004:

(1) recommit to the overarching 2-State vision set out by President Bush in his statement of June 24, 2002 and repeated in the road map;

(2) support the Palestinians as they choose a new President within the next 60 days, and as they embark upon an electoral process that will lead to lasting democratic institutions;

(3) mobilize international support behind a plan to ensure that the Palestinians have the political, economic, and security infrastructure they need to create a free, viable, and democratic State, including free press, free speech, an open political process, and religious tolerance;

(4) support the disengagement plan of Prime Minister Sharon from Gaza and stipulated parts of the West Bank as part of this overall plan; and

(5) recognize that these steps lay the basis for more rapid progress on the road map as a reliable guide leading to final status negotiations;

Whereas the United States will join with others in the international community to foster the development of Palestinian democratic political institutions, support the new leadership of the Palestinians that is committed to those institutions, assist in the reconstruction of civic institutions, promote the growth of a free and prosperous economy, and endorse the building of capable security institutions dedicated to maintaining law and order and dismantling terrorist organizations; and

Whereas in order to promote a lasting peace, all States in the region must oppose violence and terrorism, foster the development of democratic political and civic institutions, support the emergence of a peaceful and democratic Palestine, and state clearly that they will live in peace with Israel: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Senate—

(1) endorses the Joint Statement made by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair on November 12, 2004, expressing a shared vision of freedom, peace, and democracy in the broader Middle East and supports a reinvigorated and concerted United States-led international effort to achieve that vision;

(2) supports explicitly the steps presented by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair in that Joint Statement as the basis for more rapid progress on the road map as a reliable guide leading to final status negotiations;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to a vision of 2 democratic States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security as the key to peace; and

(4) expresses its commitment to the road map, which was endorsed by the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations, as a realistic and widely recognized plan for making progress toward peace.

TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2655, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2655) to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lugar substitute at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4071) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4071

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT.—

(1) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—An alien entering the United States as a participant in the program shall satisfy the following requirements:

“(A) The alien shall be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

“(B) The alien shall be between 21 and 35 years of age on the date of departure for the United States.

“(C) The alien shall have resided continuously in a designated county for not less than 18 months before such date.

“(D) The alien shall have been continuously unemployed for not less than 12 months before such date.

“(E) The alien may not have a degree from an institution of higher education.”.

(2) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 2 of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “the third program year and for the 4 subsequent years,” and inserting “each program year;” and

(B) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) SUNSET.—

“(1) Effective October 1, 2008, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 is repealed.

“(2) Effective October 1, 2008, section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

“(A) by striking ‘or’ at the end of clause (i);

“(B) by striking ‘(i)’ after ‘(Q)’; and

“(C) by striking clause (ii).”.

(3) COST-SHARING.—Section 2 of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note), as amended by paragraph (2), is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b), the following new subsection:

“(c) COST-SHARING.—The Secretary of State shall verify that the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland continue to pay a reasonable share of the costs of the administration of the cultural and training programs carried out pursuant to this Act.”.

(4) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) by striking “Immigration and Naturalization Service” each place such term appears and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”.

(b) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONIMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) in clause (ii)(I)—

(i) by striking “35 years of age or younger having a residence” and inserting “citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, 21 to 35 years of age, unemployed for not less than 12 months, and having a residence for not less than 18 months”; and

(ii) by striking “36 months”) and inserting “24 months”).

(2) FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.—Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended—

(A) by redesignating the subsection (p) as added by section 1505(f) of Public Law 106-386 (114 Stat. 1526) as subsection (s); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(t)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person admitted under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I), or acquiring such status after admission, shall be eligible to apply for nonimmigrant status, an immigrant visa, or permanent residence under this Act until it is established that such person has resided and been physically present in the person's country of nationality or last residence for an aggregate of at least 2 years following departure from the United States.

“(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the requirement of such 2-year foreign residence abroad if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) departure from the United States would impose exceptional hardship upon the alien's spouse or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence); or

“(B) the admission of the alien is in the public interest or the national interest of the United States.”.

The bill (H.R. 2655), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITY OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT TO HOLD COURT IN ROCK ISLAND, IL

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2873, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2873) to extend the authority of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa to hold court in Rock Island, Illinois.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4072

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. LEAHY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], for Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 4072.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: to provide for additional places of holding court, and for other purposes)

At the end of the bill add the following:

SEC. 2. HOLDING OF COURT AT CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI.

Section 104(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by inserting "and Cleveland" after "Clarksdale".

SEC. 3. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN TEXARKANA, TEXAS, AND TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS.

Sections 83(b)(1) and 124(c)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after "held at Texarkana" the following: ", and may be held anywhere within the Federal courthouse in Texarkana that is located astride the State line between Texas and Arkansas".

SEC. 4. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

Section 112(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "and Watertown" and inserting "Watertown, and Plattsburgh".

SEC. 5. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

Section 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Colorado Springs," after "Boulder,".

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Leahy amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4072) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2873), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2873

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HOLDING OF COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA.

Section 11029 of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (28 U.S.C. 95 note; Public Law 107-273; 116 Stat. 1836) is amended by striking "July 1, 2005" and inserting "July 1, 2006".

SEC. 2. HOLDING OF COURT AT CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI.

Section 104(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by inserting "and Cleveland" after "Clarksdale".

SEC. 3. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN TEXARKANA, TEXAS, AND TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS.

Sections 83(b)(1) and 124(c)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after "held at Texarkana" the following: ", and may be held anywhere within the Federal courthouse in Texarkana that is located astride the State line between Texas and Arkansas".

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SEC. 5. PLACE OF HOLDING COURT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

Section 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Colorado Springs," after "Boulder,".

NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2154, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2154) to establish a National sex offender registration database, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4073

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment on behalf of Mr. DORGAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], for Mr. DORGAN, proposes an amendment numbered 4073.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: to establish a national sex offender database available to the public, and for other purposes)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Database Act of 2004" or "Dru's Law".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act:

(1) CRIMINAL OFFENSE AGAINST A VICTIM WHO IS A MINOR.—The term "criminal offense

against a victim who is a minor" has the same meaning as in section 170101(a)(3) of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 14071(a)(3)).

(2) MINIMALLY SUFFICIENT SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION PROGRAM.—The term "minimally sufficient sexual offender registration program" has the same meaning as in section 170102(a) of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 14072(a)).

(3) SEXUALLY VIOLENT OFFENSE.—The term "sexually violent offense" has the same meaning as in section 170101(a)(3) of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 14071(a)(3)).

(4) SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR.—The term "sexually violent predator" has the same meaning as in section 170102(a) of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 14072(a)).

SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF THE NSOR DATABASE TO THE PUBLIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall—

(1) make publicly available in a registry (in this Act referred to as the "public registry") from information contained in the the National Sex Offender Registry, via the Internet, all information described in subsection (b); and

(2) allow for users of the public registry to determine which registered sex offenders are currently residing within a radius, as specified by the user of the public registry, of the location indicated by the user of the public registry.

(b) INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC REGISTRY.—With respect to any person convicted of a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor or a sexually violent offense, or any sexually violent predator, required to register with a minimally sufficient sexual offender registration program within a State, including a program established under section 170101 of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 14017(b)), the public registry shall provide, to the extent available in the National Sex Offender Registry—

(1) the name and any known aliases of the person;

(2) the date of birth of the person;

(3) the current address of the person and any subsequent changes of that address;

(4) a physical description and current photograph of the person;

(5) the nature of and date of commission of the offense by the person;

(6) the date on which the person is released from prison, or placed on parole, supervised release, or probation; and

(7) any other information the Attorney General considers appropriate.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF HIGH RISK INMATES.

(a) CIVIL COMMITMENT PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any State that provides for a civil commitment proceeding, or any equivalent proceeding, shall issue timely notice to the attorney general of that State of the impending release of any person incarcerated by the State who—

(A) is a sexually violent predator; or

(B) has been deemed by the State to be at high-risk for recommitting any sexually violent offense or criminal offense against a victim who is a minor.

(2) REVIEW.—Upon receiving notice under paragraph (1), the State attorney general shall consider whether or not to institute a civil commitment proceeding, or any equivalent proceeding required under State law.